

Chairman's report

Friday 19 April 2013



Murray Irrigation

This is the Chairman's report, distributed following a meeting of the Murray Irrigation Board of Directors yesterday.

End of season closure

The Board considered planning around the date and procedure for the end of season offtake closures and subsequent channel draining.

The Board confirmed its support for the closure of Murray Irrigation's offtakes no earlier than Tuesday 30 April, as advised in the March Chairman's report. Assessment of demand for irrigation in early May will be based on orders placed on or before **5.00pm Friday 26 April** and will be used to determine the exact offtake closure date(s). Customers are asked to include a finish date with their order.

Murray Irrigation will endeavour to meet the irrigation orders placed by customers.

Murray Irrigation will confirm the offtake closure date(s) and end of season arrangements in *Talking Water* on Tuesday 30 April with the intention of giving customers sufficient notice of the closure.

Customers are reminded that all water deliveries up to Tuesday 14 May will be accounted as on allocation water.

Water availability update and efficiency allocations

The Board considered the volume of conveyance allocation available for the remainder of 2012/13 and a range of scenarios for water availability in 2013/14. Based on this information it is unlikely Murray Irrigation will make efficiency allocations to customers early in the 2013/14 water year as has been the practice in the last two irrigation seasons.

PIIOP update

The Board received an update on the rollout of the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP) funding. Actions are in place for the early works on the Mulwala and Berrigan Canals and customer consultation has commenced, whilst the recruitment of staff and engagement of contractors funded through PIIOP is progressing.

The Board will consider a detailed project plan and four year budget for PIIOP at its May meeting. Survey work will also commence along channels in the eastern part of Murray Irrigation in May. More specific information about the planned timing of channel and outlet upgrades across our area will be available to customers in June 2013.

Delivery entitlements and the casual usage fee

The Board discussed the operation of the annual market for delivery entitlements as a result of Murray Irrigation's Fees and Prices Policy, quarterly billing and the large volume of water delivered this season.

The Board confirmed the importance of the principles in Murray Irrigation's Fees and Prices Policy which includes the casual usage fee applying based on a percentage of delivery entitlements held.

The Board will review the 2012/13 experience in preparation for the 2013/14 irrigation season.



Noel Graham
Chairman